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23 May 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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Congo: [Strains are increasing between the Leopoldville and Brazzaville governments.]

[The quarrel arises out of the belief of each, growing since last fall, that the other is actively supporting and encouraging elements hostile to it. At present tempers in Leopoldville are inflamed by three recent plastic bomb attacks on local electric power lines. Leopoldville believes these acts are the work of agents of the Brazzaville-based Committee of National Liberation composed of exiles bent on overthrowing Adoula.]

[The Leopoldville government reportedly believes that the only way to deal with Congo Brazzaville is through a policy of force and retaliatory sabotage.]

[Leopoldville is too occupied with domestic rebel movements to think seriously in terms of resorting to military force.]

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[Brazzaville will blame any local guerrilla-type activity on Leopoldville and might also voice charges against the US, which is widely regarded in Brazzaville as ultimately responsible for Leopoldville's hostility. In any event, leftist elements would probably use any incidents to strengthen their power position in the fluid Brazzaville regime.]

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Italy - Communist China: The Italian Socialist Party (PSI) plans to demonstrate its interest in Communist China for domestic political reasons.

The PSI's principal foreign affairs expert, Senator Vittorelli, has told the US Embassy in Rome that the party is sending him on a week-long "official exploratory" visit to Peiping, where he expects to arrive on 26 May. Vittorelli said the main purpose behind his trip is to counter criticism by the Italian Communist Party (PCI) and by Socialist dissidents of the PSI's China policy, which has been to support the government's decision to withhold recognition.

The embassy comments that the PSI is in fact in a difficult position with respect to the political left, and is under constant attack for joining with the Christian Democrats in the center-left government. However, Vittorelli says that the PCI is itself undergoing a profound crisis because of the Sino-Soviet split and the PSI's participation in the government. He believes initiatives such as his trip to China can help deepen the controversy and sap the PCI's electoral strength.

Vittorelli admits that if the trip's purpose were misinterpreted it could, as the embassy believes, embarrass the US.

The government's official position is to regard the trip as a private PSI venture. Although certain coalition leaders may privately sanction the visit as a means of buttressing the PSI's position against criticism from the left, the trip will be exploited by elements within the coalition parties who do not favor the present government.

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*South Korea: [The political situation remains basically unstable despite a lull in the power struggle within the regime since 11 May when a new cabinet was installed under Prime Minister Chong IL-kwon. Students again demonstrated against normalizing relations with Japan on 20 May, but failed to arouse much popular support. A subsequent interference with court proceedings by a group of paratroopers underlines the continuing threat of outbreaks of violence.]

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Argentina: Argentina has strongly protested against proposed US sales of PL 480 meat and threatens to retaliate by withdrawing from the UN trade conference at Geneva. Argentina has been cooperative in consultations with the US on PL 480 sales of wheat and other products, but it describes the proposed meat sales as "economic aggression" and "unfair interference in commercial meat transactions." Uruguay also strongly opposes PL 480 meat sales. 1

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*British Guiana: A state of emergency was declared on 22 May at the urging of Governor Luyt because of the deteriorating security situation. This move will enable the governor to take stronger protective measures--such as searching for arms without warrant--and to utilize the approximately 600 British troops now in the colony to assist in maintaining order. Because of the threat of expanded East Indian - Negro racial violence, additional British troops have been alerted and one company is now enroute to Georgetown.

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